

MONTGOMERY COUNTY COMMISSION FOR WOMEN

401 North Washington Street, Suite 100
Rockville, Maryland 20850

MEETING MINUTES

October 26, 2005

7:05 p.m.

ATTENDING

Gloria A. Aparicio
Patricia E. Cornish
Holly Fechner (by telephone)
Deborah L. Horan
Shirley L. Johnson
Anne S. Kasper
Elizabeth Keyes
Resa Levy
Fauzia R. Najm
Martha Nguyen
Tedi S. Osias
Shelia Parker
Gary P. Smith
Yun Jung Yang

STAFF

Paula S. Rodgers
Tracy Stuger
Judith Vaughan-Prather

ABSENT

Regina L. Oldak

I. CALL TO ORDER/APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES.....Horan

President Horan called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. There were no additions or changes to the agenda. Upon the motion made by Commissioner Johnson, duly seconded by Commissioner Keyes and unanimously adopted, the agenda was approved as submitted.

Upon the motion made by Commissioner Yang, duly seconded by Commissioner Najm and unanimously passed, the Minutes of the September 28, 2005 meeting were approved as written.

President Horan commented on recent events in which commissioners and staff were honored. On October 6, Commissioner Johnson was named one of the nine distinguished

Women of Achievement by the Business and Professional Women. On October 21, Commissioner Cornish was honored as one of the 25 Outstanding Montgomery County Women at the WBO Celebrates Success Gala. On October 25, Executive Director Vaughan-Prather received the Dorothy Beatty Memorial Award from the Women's Law Center of Maryland.

President Horan congratulated each of the award winners and said that the award ceremonies were wonderful events, and Ms. Johnson, Ms. Cornish, and Ms. Vaughan-Prather all gave fabulous remarks and were very gracious in sharing credit for their accomplishments with the Commission for Women.

II. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT.....Horan

A. FY06 Commission for Women Workplan

The CFW FY06 Workplan was discussed and approved at the Commission's September 28, 2005 meeting. Copies of the final Workplan were distributed in tonight's meeting agenda packet.

B. NACW Annual Membership

It is time to renew the MCCFW's membership with the National Association of Commissions for Women and CFW's dues for 2006 are \$350. Commissioner Smith moved that MCCFW continue its membership with NACW and pay the \$350 for dues; the motion was duly seconded by Commissioner Cornish and unanimously passed. Staff will process the renewal application and the dues payment.

C. County Minority Affairs Business Manager Bill

A bill was signed today establishing a new position of Minority Affairs Business Manager in the County's Office of Economic Development. CFW has been informed that this new position will also be a liaison for women business owners. The CFW Executive Committee is suggesting that the working title of the position specifically include reference to women, or at least not exclude women. Discussion ensued as to whether the legislation actually refers to women.

Staff will review the legislation to be sure that women business owners are included. If the legislation does include women, a letter will be sent to the County Council commending it on establishing the new position and asking for inclusion of women in the working title of the job position. If the legislation does not include women, the letter should suggest that women business owners also need this level of attention. The motion to send a letter was made by Commissioner Najm and duly seconded by Commissioner Aparicio and unanimously passed. Staff will draft the correspondence.

D. Roll-back of Spousal Pension Protection

CFW received a notice from The National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare (NCPSSM) about its opposition to an IRS regulation changes that would allow the use of electronic signatures for spousal consent pension forms. The NCPSSM, joined by the National Women's Law Center and other groups, opposes this regulation change because, while the electronic technology might provide convenience for some, the requirement for a notarized signature provides critical protection for spouses and prevents coercion and fraud in the execution of spousal consent documents. Commissioner Cornish moved that a letter be sent to the IRS concerning CFW's objection to electronic signatures on spousal pension designations. The motion was duly seconded by Commissioner Levy and unanimously passed. Staff will draft the letter to the IRS.

E. Presidents' Advisory Council Meeting

The next Presidents' Advisory Council Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 30 at 6:30 p.m. Commissioner Kasper will speak on the topic of healthcare reform. The restaurant location will be determined and announced later. ***Editor's Note: The meeting will be held at Tony Lin's Restaurant, 12015-G Rockville Pike.***

F. Calendar

President Horan commented on attendance at CFW committee meetings. She stated that it is difficult to carry out the work of the committees when members are absent because committees do not have the full benefit of all of the commissioners' talents and expertise. President Horan reminded commissioners to confirm committee meeting schedules with the Chairpersons and make every effort to be present at the meetings.

III. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Domestic Violence Coordinating Council

On October 24, Executive Director Vaughan-Prather met with members of the County Executive's staff to discuss the newly created Domestic Violence Coordinating Council. One issue discussed was which County department would provide staff support to the DVC Council. During the hearings on the bill, consideration was given to having the Sheriff's Department provide such support. However, the Sheriff's Department now anticipates that staffing the new Council would require an additional \$100,000 in funding. The Department of Health and Human Services believes that it can staff the DVC Council using its current resources.

B. Community Service Day

October 22, 2005 is Montgomery County Community Service Day. At the CFW meeting held September 28, Commissioners approved a project to “adopt” a single parent family through the Volunteer Bureau’s Holiday Giving project. Commissioner Aparicio is coordinating the project on behalf of the CFW and working with the Volunteer Bureau. Commissioners who are interested in participating may submit their checks made payable to Commissioner Aparicio.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. Meeting Reminders

The Executive Committee’s next meeting will be on Wednesday, November 9 and the full Commission meeting will be held on November 16. There is no meeting on Wednesday, November 23, the day before Thanksgiving. The full Commission will not meet in December.

VI. STAFF REPORTVaughan-Prather

A. Staffing

Executive Director Vaughan-Prather reported that the new Research Associate has been hired. We are delighted to welcome back Claudia Lujan, who previously interned at CFW as a graduate student from the University of Maryland School of Social Work from September 2004 to April 2005. As the new CFW Research Associate, Claudia will work with the SWIM Committee on the Status of Women project, and her schedule will be 8 hours a week. Claudia is very familiar with the work of CFW, having provided invaluable staff support to CFW and all of CFW’s committees in the past year. She graduated in May 2005 from the University of Maryland with a degree in social work (public policy and administration). She currently works as the Workforce Director for the Carlos Rosario International Career Center and Public Charter School.

B. FY05 Annual Report

CFW and Counseling Center staff is busy working on the FY05 Annual Report submissions.

C. FY07 Budget

The County’s FY07 Budget proposal is due on November 30, 2005. As reported at the September 28 CFW meeting, the department does not anticipate having to propose a decrease in funding for any of its services in FY07, but neither is there room for new programs. The department’s Maximum Agency Request Ceiling (MARC) includes funding for the printing of the Status of Women report.

D. National Association of Commissions for Women

Executive Director Vaughan-Prather updated commissioners on events transpiring with NACW. The national headquarters has been officially relocated to the office designated at MCCFW for its use. The Board of Directors is in the process of negotiating settlements with NACW's vendors. CFW staff members are handling NACW telephone calls and mail. The 2006 membership drive is ongoing and some dues payments have already come in.

E. Committee Evaluation Review Board (CERB)

In August 2004, the County's CERB Committee issued its final report of recommendations governing the county's boards, commissions and committees. The CERB Committee adopted a new attendance policy that becomes effective in January 2006. This policy changes the period of time used to measure members' allowable absences from meetings from six months to one year; however, it is unclear whether this policy also applies to subcommittee meetings. Once it has been determined if the policy applies to subcommittee meetings, Executive Director Vaughan-Prather will inform commissioners.

VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Policy and Legislation (PAL)Kasper

The committee met on October 19 and discussed legislative priorities for the coming year. However, further consideration is needed on the following issues before they are prioritized:

(1) SB 257 – Veto Override regarding the Maryland CFW. Commissioner Oldak will track this legislation. Letters of support will be written and action alerts will be sent.

(2) Emergency Contraception bill – was defeated last year, however, it will be reintroduced. The PAL Committee will write letters of support and testify on behalf of the legislation. Commissioner Oldak will track this legislation.

(3) Unfunded mandate for breast reconstruction after mastectomy – Commissioner Kasper will track the legislation.

(4) Domestic Violence – Commissioner Horan will track the legislation.

(5) Health Care Reform Initiative – Commissioner Kasper stated that she would like the Commission to play a role in a coalition of women and women's groups to work for health care reform if one is established.

Commissioner Johnson suggested some additional items that will be discussed at the next PAL meeting on November 9. Commissioners were encouraged to E-mail any additional legislative concerns to Commissioner Kasper.

B. Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women (MLAW)Johnson

Commissioner Johnson reported on MLAW's first Legislative Agenda Conference held in Baltimore on October 22, 2005. Commissioners Johnson and Oldak attended the conference; there were approximately 50 participants. Senator Delores Kelley and one other legislator were there as well. Ms. Johnson said that the Maryland Women's Heritage Center planning group gave an update on its project and is asking for \$600,000 in the state budget for the Heritage Center.

Ms. Johnson said that Commissioner Oldak facilitated the presentation of agenda proposals including: SB 257, healthcare for all, and human trafficking. Other issues that were presented included public funding of campaigns for members of the General Assembly, protective orders, and transfer of marital property title.

MLAW will screen the list of legislative proposals to ensure that each one meets the MLAW criteria and then the accepted proposals will be consolidated into a ballot to be submitted to the paid memberships for a vote. Voting is expected to take place in November. The suggested date to brief legislators is January 16, 2006.

C. Women's Legislative Briefing

The Women's Legislative Briefing will be held January 29, 2006 at the National 4-H Center. Commissioner Kasper has arranged to have Susan Wood, former Assistant Commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration, serve as the keynote speaker. Commissioners are encouraged to ask their endorsing organizations to become co-sponsors of the Briefing.

D. Immigrant Women in Montgomery County (IWin)Yang

The IWin Committee met earlier this evening. The translations of the *Sexual Harassment in the Workplace* and *Employment Rights of Pregnant Women* booklets in Spanish are almost finalized. The Korean translations are in final draft and are awaiting approval. The work on the Chinese and Vietnamese translations has just begun. The committee will work on a first draft of the distribution strategy for the booklets at the November 16 meeting. The committee hopes to launch the IWORK Campaign with a press conference held on International Women's Day, March 8, 2006.

On Friday, October 28, the IWin Committee will present a program for the County's Diversity Week celebration. *"Undocumented, Exploited and Invisible: Immigrant women, domestic servitude and forced prostitution"* includes an excellent panel of speakers including Commissioners Keyes, Aparicio and Nguyen.

Commissioner Keyes began drafting the brochure on domestic workers rights.

The second *Chocolate, Checks and Champagne* fundraiser will be held April 30, 2006 at Commissioner Najm's home, from 2-4 pm. Additional details will be forthcoming.

C. Status of Women in Montgomery County (SWIM)Cornish

Commissioner Cornish said that the first meeting of the SWIM Committee will take place October 27 at 8:30 a.m. The SWIM Committee members are happy to have Research Associate Claudia Lujan working on the Status of Women project.

VII. LIAISON REPORTS

A. Girls and Technology.....Smith

Commissioner Yang suggested that Commissioner Smith look into the summer computer camp fair being sponsored at White Flint Mall in 2006.

The MCPS Technology Task Force met on October 14. Committees have been formed around the issues. Executive Director Vaughan-Prather will share the resource information with Commissioner Smith.

B. Others

Commissioner Aparicio reported that she attended the Workforce Development Awards ceremony this morning and she was struck by the lack of recognition of women-owned businesses.

Commissioner Aparicio was asked to find out the criteria for honoring organizations. A suggestion was made that Ms. Aparicio contact Hugh Bailey and Devance Walker, Jr. in the County's Department of Economic Development. Ms. Aparicio was asked to bring to the next CFW meeting a recommendation for how the Workforce Development Awards event can also recognize women business owners.

VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A. On Sunday, October 30, at 2:30 p.m., a rally will be held in support of domestic workers' rights. Organizers are trying to get 300 people to attend the rally which will take place at the Long Branch Community Center on Piney Branch Road. Commissioner Keyes will email additional information to Executive Director Vaughan-Prather to be shared with commissioners.

- B. Commissioner Parker recently spoke to Councilman George Leventhal who expressed his desire to have a special study done on the issue of domestic workers. Commissioners agreed that a follow-up meeting between CFW and Mr. Leventhal is a good idea.
- C. Commissioner Fechner announced that the Senate voted today to restore funding for the data collection on women workers by the Department of Labor. The bill now has to go before a conference committee within the House.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Commission for Women, the meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

**Minutes Submitted By
Paula S. Rodgers
Montgomery County Commission for Women**

CFW Action and Follow-Up Items

- ☒ 1. Staff to process the renewal form and dues payment for MCCFW's membership with NACW.
- ☐ 2. Staff will double check the county legislation that created a County Minority Affairs Business Manager to be sure that women are included. If the legislation does include women, staff will draft a letter to the County Council commending them on establishing the new position and asking for inclusion of women in the working title of the job. If the legislation does not include women, the letter can suggest that women get equal treatment.
- ☐ 3. Staff will draft a letter from CFW to the IRS concerning CFW's objection to electronic signatures on spousal pension designations.
- ☐ 4. The next Presidents Advisory Council Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 30 at 6:30 p.m. Commissioner Kasper will speak on the topic of healthcare reform. The meeting will take place at Tony Lin's Kitchen Restaurant at 12015-G Rockville Pike.
- ☐ 5. President Horan reminded commissioners to confirm committee meeting schedules with the Chairpersons and make every effort to be present at these meetings.
- 6. Commissioners interested in participating in Community Service Day 2005 can submit their checks made payable to Commissioner Aparicio.
- ☐ 7. The Executive Committee's next meeting will be on Wednesday, November 9 and the full Commission meeting will be held on November 16. There is no meeting on Wednesday, November 23, the day before Thanksgiving and the full Commission will not meet in December.
- ☐ 8. Commissioners are encouraged to ask their endorsing organizations to become co-sponsors of the 2006 Women's Legislative Briefing.
- ☐ 9. Commissioner Smith will look into the summer computer camp fair being sponsored at White Flint Mall in 2006.
- ☐ 10. Executive Director Vaughan-Prather will share the resource information from the MCPS Technology Task Force with Commissioner Smith.

- ☐ 11. Commissioner Aparicio to contact Hugh Bailey and Devance Walker, Jr. in the County's Department of Economic Development and to bring to the next CFW meeting a recommendation for how the Workforce Development Awards event can also recognize women business owners.
- ☒ 12. Commissioner Keyes to email additional information about the October 30 domestic workers rights rally to Executive Director Vaughan-Prather to be shared with commissioners.
- ☒ 13. CFW to schedule a follow-up meeting between CFW and Councilmember Leventhal on the domestic workers bill of rights issue.